(c) The total number of accumulated cases pending for disposal at the end of 2007, as informed by NCDRC, is as follows:

Year	State Commission	District Forum	Total
End of 2007	4735	20409	25144

Smuggling of foodgrains

2071.SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is large scale smuggling of foodgrains, predominantly rice to food deficient Nepal; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to curb this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) To check smuggling activities through international borders, Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Home Affairs have their field units stationed at border check posts. Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), which is deployed on Indo-Nepal Border, has reported that during the current year, SSB has seized food articles valued at Rs.34.638 lakh on Indo-Nepal Border. SSB has also reported that to prevent smuggling of food articles and other items from India to Nepal, vigil is maintained and required preventive action is taken.

Further, Department of Revenue, Anti Smuggling Unit (CBEC) has reported that food articles valued at Rs.355.80 lakhs have been seized on Indo-Bangladesh and Indo-Nepal Borders during the current year. They have also reported that their field formations maintain strict vigil on the Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bangladesh borders to prevent smuggling activities.

Grain drain from PDS

2072.SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the reported grain drain from PDS;

(b) whether Delhi has the highest wheat diversion rate in the country and whether food diversion in North-Eastern States is no exception;

(c) if so, what measures have been taken to check the diversion of PDS wheat, rice and sugar into black market; and

(d) whether Tata Economic Consultancy Services prepared a report into the matter and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is operated under the joint responsibility of the Government of India and State / UT